

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Study Session  
and Closed Executive Session

November 19, 2013

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Study Session and Closed Executive Session at 4:35 pm on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Kristi Swett, Vice President Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, and Laurel H. Young.

Members Excused: Tiffany Sandberg, and Lavenita Vaitai, Student Member.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Barbara Kuehl, Executive Director, Academic Services/Professional Development; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Earl Arnoldson, Principal, Indian Hills Elementary School; Sharon Adamson, Language Arts Coordinator; Jerry Frydrych, Math Supervisor; Rosanne Henderson, Fine Arts Supervisor; CeCie Scharman, P.E/Character Ed Supervisor; John Robson, board legal counsel from Fabian, Attorneys at Law; Sharon Grey, President, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Tina Hatch, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Study Session of November 19, 2013, two motions were made. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by President Swett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:35 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

\*(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, personnel, and property items.

\*\* (Young and Emery)

Present for Closed Session were Kristi Swett, Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Laurel H. Young, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, and John Robson, the board's legal counsel.

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Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. and returned to the Board Study Session at 5:34 p.m.

2. BOARD STUDY SESSION

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience. She excused Tiffany Sandberg and Lavenita Vaitai, Student Board Member. She recognized the presence of Sharon Grey, President, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association. President Swett explained the early start and end times of the Study Session, and noted most board members would be attending the Fifth Annual State of Utah Education Address at M. Lynn Bennion Elementary School following the meeting.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA	X		
EMERY	X		
NELSON	X		
SWETT	X		
SANDBERG			X
YOUNG	X		
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

- Patrick Garcia led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Limited Consent Agenda

\*(2) A motion was made that the board approve the one item included in the Limited Consent Agenda. This item is listed below.

\*\*(Bennett and Emery)

- The Purchasing Report dated November 19, 2013, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000.

A. STUDY TOPICS

- Student Achievement Plan-Curriculum and Instruction. Barbara Kuehl introduced Ken O'Brien, Science Education Specialist; Dessie Olson, Social Studies and World Languages Education Specialist; Sharon Adamson, Language Arts Coordinator; Rosanne Henderson, Fine Arts Supervisor; Jerry Frydrych, Math Supervisor; CeCie Scharman, PE/Character Ed Supervisor; Sharon Grey, Administrative Assistant, Academic Services; Linda Barth, Language Arts Coach; and Julie Anzelmo and Laura Cheney, Math Coaches. She presented a recording of the report on the Student Achievement Plan-Curriculum and Instruction essential.

Ms. Kuehl said the district is in the final year of implementation of the Utah Core Standards in language arts and mathematics, the Utah Effective Teaching Standards have been introduced, and her staff has begun to work with teachers to reform and unify the teaching of English Language Development. She discussed the benefits of having coaches to assist teachers in improving their instructional skills, which in turn improves learning for students. She reported on the supports available for teachers, including curriculum resources and professional development, and shared data that shows student growth in most areas.

Ms. Kuehl said district interim assessments for language arts, math, and science are helping teachers to evaluate the effectiveness of their teaching, and to identify areas needing improvement. She said meaningful professional development can support reflective practice and improve teaching. She said the goal is to assist teachers at all levels, including helping new teachers develop confidence, and encouraging teachers to participate in the National Board Certification process. She said technology empowers teachers to introduce new learning strategies to students, and media centers help students acquire research skills and a love of reading. She noted the benefits of fine arts, physical education, and character education for students. Ms. Kuehl answered questions from the board regarding Illuminate, the use of e-books, the benefits of interim assessments, the use of Kahn Academy resources, and class size. She thanked her team for their passion and hard work, and thanked the board for their support.

Superintendent Withers noted the strengths and uniqueness of the Academic Services team. He thanked them for helping to remove barriers, and for accepting the challenge to change practice and help teachers. President Swett also thanked the Academic Services team for the presentation and their hard work. A copy of the presentation has been added to the official minutes.

2. USBA Master Board Training. President Swett reminded board members they have until December 1, 2013, to complete the online USBA Master Board Training, including the Finance and Open Meeting courses. She also said board members can mark off the items the board has been going over. She noted the board evaluation will be held the week of January 13 through 17, and requested board members check their calendars to schedule a date that will work.

## B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Education Task Force. Superintendent Withers distributed a draft document from the Governor's Education Excellence Commission, Vision and Mission Committee. He said there is concern about revenue covering growth. The board will discuss this topic at a later date. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Budget Development. Superintendent Withers distributed the July 5, 2012 Discussion Draft of the Priority Considerations for New Resources, and the History of Budget Cuts documents to board members in order to prepare for Budget Development for the 2014-15 school year. He noted the cuts have not been eliminated. He asked board members to create a list of priorities for the possibility of additional funding. A copy of the handout has been included in the official minutes.

Administrative Evaluations. Superintendent Withers said there was a question about evaluations for administrators. He said Senate Bill 64 addresses both teacher and administrative evaluations, so there are statewide standards for administrators. He said there is also an expectation that there be an annual evaluation for classified employees. He said all employees will be affected in the future, with a portion of their increases being connected to

performance. He said Patrick Garcia will continue to update the board regarding the evaluation processes.

Following the Superintendent's report, Ms. Young raised the question of school calendars. Mr. Garcia said the vote for a calendar will be weighted based on October 1, 2013, enrollment. The board asked that the calendars be added to the district Web site prior to the voting deadline, and noted the difference in the fall break on two calendar options.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Study Session was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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Janet M. Roberts  
Business Administrator

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